

"FAT JACK" JONES TAKES THE CASH

A Tale of High Finance Involving James A. Murray of Butte, Montana.

Here is a story, clipped from the Anaconda Standard, concerning James A. Murray, that may interest readers of the Miner.

So many stories are told of James A. Murray and of "Fat" Jack that it is refreshing to hear a new one. Despite his adamant exterior, intimate friends of Murray relate that his benefactions are numerous. "Fat" Jack, like many an old-timer in distress, has occasion to remember him gratefully. The two were in the lobby of the Thornton last week at the same time when General Warren came in and told the Standard man the following story, subsequently corroborating it by reference to both the principals.

Long before the days of the taxicab, Jack's team and hack were reaching the stage he describes as "pass-say." Jack concluded to stake himself to an entire new outfit and after he had reconnoitered in the neighborhood of the Murray bank for several days, he boldly presented his proposition. He would pay so much a month out of the earnings from the fashionable conveyance and would give his note for the amount which he estimated would not exceed \$1,500. The bargain was closed; the interest rate is not mentioned in the story. Jack says that didn't worry him. It didn't.

For the first few months Jack paid the interest and a small—very small—portion of the principal. Months passed into years and Jack's sole relations with Murray were to meet him occasionally at the depot as he arrived from California and haul him up to the hotel, promptly and regularly collecting his fare, to wit 50 cents in coin of the republic.

One stormy Christmas night, Jack waiting for the North Coast sat in his high seat, his head and beard buried in the collar of his old buffalo overcoat while the snowflakes settled all over him from the tip of his silk hat to the toes of his generous overshoes. The train hissed and groaned and with the last whine of the airbrakes a familiar figure swung down from the observation car. It was Jim Murray. He made a bee line for Jack's hack.

"Thornton, Mr. Murray?"

"Yes, Jack."

Jack toted the Murray grip into the hotel.

"Have a Christmas drink?"

Jack said it would be easy to take. The bar just glowed with Christmas cheer. Jack shook himself while the snow fairly radiated from his fuzzy coat and fell in great flakes on the bright tiled floor.

"Tom and Jerry?" said the bartender, hardly waiting for a reply.

"Merry Christmas, Mr. Murray."

Jack's dark eyes fairly twinkled as he glanced around at the knots of convivial merrymakers who were doing justice to the "Tom and Jerry". He was proud to be seen with Jim Murray—taking a Christmas drink with one of the richest men in the West.

"Cigar, Jack?"

Jack lit the perfect and blew concentric rings at an imaginary point with the ease and grace of a connoisseur.

This was the life.

"How much do I owe you, Jack?"

It was evident the tete-a-tete was about to be brought to an abrupt end.

"Just the same, Mr. Murray, 50 cents."

Murray fumbled in his vest pocket. Then he reached deep into the recesses of his inside pocket. From it he drew a heterogeneous collection of letters, cards, memoranda. From them he selected a small multi-folded slip of paper, which he opened with studied deliberation. It was Fat Jack's note renewed and augmented because of delinquent interest. It stipulated in seven different legal phrases that John Jones, alias "Fat Jack," some 10 years earlier promised to pay to James A. Murray the sum of \$1,700 in gold coin, the same to be paid in the city of Butte.

It was Christmas night and Jack like Murray was an old-timer. Mur-

ray spread the note on the bar so that Jack could see what it was. A smile half mischief, half kindness, stole over the face of the millionaire.

"Fifty cents," he mused, "Christmas night! Take this instead," he added quietly, as he handed him the note instead of the fifty cents."

Jack hesitated long enough to blow a great cloud of smoke from the perfect. "If it's all the same to you Mr. Murray, I'd rather have the 50 cents."

After Murray had attested to the truth of the story, he asked Jack if he remembered the time he half-shaved him. Jack said he never could forget it.

"Jack was a barber once," continued Murray, "although he doesn't contribute much to the profession now. I went into his shop in Philipsburg one morning some 40-odd years ago to get a shave. He had lathered me and had taken a few swaths off from one side, when the fellow who preceded me handed him a ten-dollar gold-piece. Jack had no change, and so he left us both and hurried across the street to a saloon in which, as was customary in those days, a faro game was progressing. I may mention that nobody could play faro faster, with both hands, than our friend, Mr. Jones."

"We waited at least 10 minutes and Jack did not return. Then the man who was waiting for his change left, and five minutes more passed, but no Jack in sight. I took a towel, mopped off the lather and crossed to the saloon. Here sat Jack at the faro game, half concealed behind stacks of chips, red, white and blue."

"I guess you'll have to finish that shave yourself, Mr. Murray," he said. "I'm involved in a little transaction with my friend Brocky," nodding at the dealer."

"A big crowd had gathered around the table and from one of them I learned what had happened. Jack threw down the ten-dollar piece on the layout, intending to get change. The coin landed on the queen. The dealer made the turn and the queen won. He brushed in Jack's ten and passed him twenty dollars in chips. It was too much for Jack. He sat down in front of the chips and went to it."

"I finished the shave myself and Jack's shop remained closed for a couple of days."

"Did he open up again? Ask Jack!"

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WHITE TAILED DEER COMMON IN ARIZONA

Joe V. Prochaska has taken issue with a statement which appeared in a recent issue of Field and Stream, a sportsman's journal, to the effect that there are no white tailed deer in Arizona. He has written a letter to the publishers protesting the statement and demanding that proper correction be made.

In an article on the white tailed deer, Dan J. Singer, a noted authority on American game, inadvertently, or with intention of giving Arizona a black eye, makes the statement:

"The white tailed deer exist, or did exist in every state of the Union, with the exception of Delaware, Oregon, Nevada, California and Arizona."

"The fact of the matter is," said Prochaska, "that probably there are more white tailed deer in Arizona than in any other state in the Union, and I would like to have the opportunity of proving it to the author of this article."

"White tailed deer are so plentiful in this state that the people have them as pets and ornaments for their grounds. I shall be pleased to take him out to the home of Edward Singer of 910 Central Avenue and show him some splendid specimens of white tailed deer, as well as black tails. I have issued at least a dozen certificates to other residents of the state permitting them to keep white tailed deer on their premises."

GOATS USED IN TESTING GASES

How goats were used to test poisonous gases made for the army during the world war, is described and illustrated in the October issue of the Popular Mechanics Magazine. Large herds were purchased by the government, and the beasts were kept at plants where gas shells were manufactured. In making the tests, a few goats were placed in a trench, and a gas shell was exploded near them. Immediately afterward, they were killed and their lungs examined to ascertain the effects of the poison. Using this information, experts compiled tables to indicate the number of shells of a certain strength necessary to explode in a given area in order to obtain the maximum results.

The 1919 All Star Sport Record

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HOLLOW WHEELS CARRY BALLAST FOR TRACTOR

When a farm tractor needs additional weight, logs and stones are generally piled on the frame. A more orderly provision is made by a new machine, which stores sand or water ballast in its hollow wheels. The two main drivewheels and the large idlers will hold a good many hundreds of pounds of extra weight. Instead of being rigidly connected to the frame, the large idler wheels are hung on spiral springs inclosed in iron cylinders. The tractor has no differential, and is steered with planetary gearing which throws all the power onto one tread or the other.

You will be a better man if you see the picture at Lang's Theatre on Oct. 2.

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